

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 04442 122151Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
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FOR ARA, L AND D ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PGOV CI
SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION

REF: STATE 147382

1. I DELIVERED PACKAGE OF DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY MESSRS
PROPPER AND BARCELLA TO FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS ON JUNE 12
AT 11:30 A.M. INCLUDED IN PACKAGE WAS MESSAGE CONTAINED IN
REFTEL REGARDING GENERAL WALTERS TYPED ON PLAIN BOND.

2. IN HANDING OVER THE DOCUMENTS, I TOLD THE FOREIGN
MINISTER THAT WE EXPECTED EQUAL COOPERATION FROM THE GOC.
I ASKED SPECIFICALLY THAT A PHONE CALL BE MADE IMMEDIATELY
TO PARAGUAY TO INFORM GOP OFFICIALS THAT THERE WAS NO GOC
OBJECTION TO THEIR TESTIFYING. I SAID I WAS SURE HE WOULD
AGREE WITH ME THAT IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO ASK THE PARAGUAYANS
TO INITIATE THIS CALL WHEN, AFTER ALL, THEY HAD DONE
THE GOC A FAVOR. THE CORRECT THING THEREFORE, WOULD BE FOR
GENERAL MENA OR GENERAL OROZCO TO CALL THEM AT ONCE.

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3. AS A SECOND SIGN OF COOPERATION, I REQUESTED THAT
LT COL RAUL ITURRIAGA BE ALLOWED TO TESTIFY IN THE
UNITED STATES. I SAID THAT GENERAL OROZCO HAD BEEN
QUITE VAGUE ABOUT THIS TO MESSRS POPPER AND BARCELLA
AND STATED SOME UNCITED MILITARY REGULATIONS WHICH
WOULD PROHIBIT HIS TESTIFYING. HOWEVER, IT IS OUR
UNDERSTANDING THAT LT COL ITURRIAGA IS WILLING TO

TESTIFY AND THAT, MOREOVER, OUR ATTORNEY COULD NOT FIND ANY REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD PREVENT ITURRIAGA FROM DOING SO. I CONCLUDED THAT AT THIS TIME IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER FOR THE GOC TO SHOW ITS OFTEN-STATED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE BY COMPLYING FULLY WITH THESE TWO REQUESTS.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT IN A RECENT LONG DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET ABOUT THE LETELIER CASE, THE LATTER HAD ASSURED HIM ONCE AGAIN THAT HE WOULD INSIST ON FULL COOPERATION AND DISCLOSURE, AND THAT IF ANY CRIMES WERE PROVEN THE GUILTY WOULD BE PUNISHED. HE SAID THAT PINOCHET HAD TOLD HIM THAT THIS CASE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A LEGAL MATTER TO BE DECIDED IN EVERY INSTANCE IN STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH CHILEAN LAW.

5. I TOLD THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT I WAS HAPPY TO HEAR THAT ALL OF US SHARED THE SAME VIEW THAT JUSTICE MUST BE CARRIED OUT, BUT I WANTED TO STRESS THAT OUR FIRST REQUEST, THAT OF THE PHONE CALL, WAS PURELY AN EXECUTIVE MATTER WHICH COULD AND SHOULD BE DONE WITHOUT DELAY.

6. THE FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED AND SAID HE WOULD LET ME KNOW TOMORROW THE RESULT OF THEIR POSITION ON MY REQUESTS. HE SAID THAT PERSONALLY HE DID NOT SEE ANY PROBLEM WITH THE PHONE CALL, BUT HE WAS NOT SURE OF THE
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LEGAL POSITION ON COL ITURRIAGA'S TESTIFYING.

7. I EXPRESSED HOPE THAT I WOULD RECEIVE A POSITIVE ANSWER TO BOTH QUESTIONS AND ASKED THAT REGARDING THE TELEPHONE CALL I SHOULD BE NOTIFIED AS TO THE DATE OF THE CALL, THE NAME OF THE CALLER AND WITH WHOM THE PERSON SPOKE IN PARAGUAY. REGARDING COL ITURRIAGA, I SAID THAT MR ETCHEBERRY'S CAREFUL INVESTIGATIONS USUALLY ARE CORRECT. HOWEVER, IF THERE IS A LEGAL IMPEDIMENT, I WOULD APPRECIATE CITATION OF CHAPTER AND VERSE SO THAT MR ETCHEBERRY COULD HANDLE THE MATTER FOR US.

8. FOREIGN MINISTER CUBILLOS IS DEPARTING THE MORNING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14. I SHOULD HAVE HIS ANSWERS SOMETIME TOMORROW AND WILL INFORM THE DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY.
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